

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 IO-15 INT-08 DODE-00 PA-03

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 L-03 PM-07 EUR-25 AID-20 OMB-01

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R 100530Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

SECSTATE WASHDC 1809

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FOR STATE AND LABOR

PARIS FOR CONDON FROM MCHALE

LONDON FOR POLLOCK FROM MCHALE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AS

SUBJECT: USG INVITED TO ATTEND SYDNEY CONFERENCE
OF PACIFIC ISLANDS MINISTRIES OF LABOR.

1. AUSTRALIAN SECRETARY OF LABOR, IAN SHARP, RETURNED
OCTOBER 9 FROM TOKYO, WHERE, WITH MINISTER OF LABOR
CLYDE CAMERON, HE ATTENDED CONFERENCE OF ASIAN AREA
MINISTERS OF LABOR. HE CONFIRMED TO LABATT OCTOBER 10
THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD HOST NEXT CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
IN 1975.

2. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT MINISTRY OF LABOR WOULD HOST
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CONFERENCE OF PACIFIC ISLANDS MINISTRIES OF LABOR IN

SYDNEY OCTOBER 29 THRU 31, 1973. INVITEES INCLUDE DELEGATES FROM SAMOA, GUAM, PACIFIC TRUST TERRITORIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING ILO, SOUTH PACIFIC COUNCIL (SPC) AND UNDP. ALSO INVITED ARE BRITISH AND FRENCH OBSERVERS. PURPOSE OF SHARP'S CALL WAS TO INVITE LABATT TO REPRESENT US AS OBSERVER; DURING SHARP'S ABSENCE, HIS OFFICE HAD NEGLECTED TO ISSUE FORMAL INVITATION. FRENCH HAVE DECLINED INVITATION, BUT BRITISH HAVE DESIGNATED GEORGE FOGGEN, LONDON-BASED FOREIGN OFFICE LABOR SPECIALIST, WHO WILL BE ATTACHED TO SOLOMON ISLANDS AS MEMBER OF THEIR DELEGATION.

3. IN VIEW OF SHORT NOTICE LABATT REQUESTS URGENTLY THAT STATE/LABOR REGARD THIS TELEGRAM AS NOTIFICATION OF OFFICIAL INVITATION AND REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE CABLED DESIGNATION AS OFFICIAL OBSERVER.

4. IDEA OF CONFERENCE GREW OUT OF ADDRESS BY PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM IN APRIL 1973 AT SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM IN WESTERN SAMOA. WHITLAM ISSUED INFORMAL INVITATION TO SUCH CONFERENCE WHICH WAS LATER FORMALIZED.

5. AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE: (A) INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE MARITIME INDUSTRY; (B) ROLE AND FUNCTION OF A LABOR DEPARTMENT; (C) EMPLOYMENT ISSUES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC WITH EMPHASIS ON: (1) PROMOTION OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND RECRUITMENT; (2) TRAINING; (3) MANPOWER SERVICES. PRINTED AGENDA AND BRIEF POSITION PAPERS WILL BE FORWARDED TO LABATT WHEN PRINTED, PROBABLY ON OCTOBER 12.

6. COMMENT: MANY INVITEES TO SYDNEY CONFERENCE ARE "NATIONS IN TRANSITION" AND FOR THAT REASON WERE NOT INVITED TO TOKYO CONFERENCE. EFFORT OBVIOUSLY IS TO PROVIDE PARALLEL FORUM AND ALSO TO STRENGTHEN GOA IMAGE IN SOUTH PACIFIC AREA. SHARP EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND CONCERN AT FRENCH FAILURE TO DESIGNATE CONFEREE. FRENCH FAILURE, AND SHARP'S CONCERN, UNDERSTANDABLE GIVEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENT STATE OF AUSTRALIAN-FRENCH RELATIONSHIPS ARISING OUT OF THIS COUNTRY'S INVOLVEMENT IN VIGOROUS PROTESTS DURING SERIES OF FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS JUST CONCLUDED IN PACIFIC. LABATT INFERS FROM SHARP'S REMARKS THAT GOA MAKING DISCREET INQUIRIES ABOUT REASONS FOR BOYCOTT. AS BRITISH DEEP CONCERN IS EVIDENCED BY DESIGNATING FOGGEN AS OFFICIAL DELEGATE, LABATT FEELS US PRESENCE IS URGENT. SHARP

EFFORT TO ISSUE INVITATION PERSONALLY WITHINMATTER
OF HOURS HIS RETURN TO MELBOURNE UNDERSCORES GOA
HOPE THAT WE WILL BE THERE.
FLUKER

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